



The Ryan Barnard Grant Program



As of July 2025

Memorial

In loving memory of Ryan James Barnard, who passed away on July 2, 2025, at the age of 22. Ryan was an active-duty Marine assigned to the 3rd Littoral Combat Team, 2nd Platoon, Ares Company, where he served with honor, courage, and unwavering commitment.

Ryan grew up playing youth hockey at West Point, from Mites through Midgets, forging deep and lasting friendships both on and off the ice. Known for his competitiveness, relentless work ethic, and fierce loyalty, Ryan exemplified what it means to be a true teammate and leader. He embodied the Army values of Duty, Honor, Country, and brought those same principles to the rink, the barracks, and beyond.

He was an integral part of every season he played with his hockey family, the Junior Black Knights. The memories created together—traveling as a team to Lake Placid, Montreal, Delaware, Philadelphia, Hershey, Binghamton, Jay Peak, Annapolis, and so many places in between—will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Ryan had planned to return home after his service to coach in the very same hockey program where he grew up, continuing the tradition and spirit of West Point hockey.

1. Mission Statement

The Ryan Barnard Grant Program was created to honor the enduring legacy of Ryan, a cherished former West Point Jr. Black Knight's player and proud U.S. Marine, whose larger-than-life personality exemplified the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. This program is intended to provide financial support to deserving individuals. Whether it is assistance with ice hockey tuition, college expenses, medical bills, or other life challenges, our mission is to support members of our community who embody Ryan's core character traits: integrity, selflessness, fearlessness, and dedication to others.

2. Organizational Chart and History

Establishment

The Grant Program was officially established by the Board of the West Point Jr. Black Knights Youth Ice Hockey Association on July 12, 2025, in a unanimous decision to create a lasting tribute to Ryan Barnard.



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Governance Structure

- Board of Directors (West Point Jr. Black Knights Youth Ice Hockey Association) – Provides oversight and financial responsibility. Reviews and discusses the Grant Program regularly at Board Meetings.
- Ryan Barnard Grant Program Co-Chairs – Appointed by the Board, responsible for day-to-day operation, eligibility review and determinations, community engagement and event organization. Appointments last two years and are subject to review and reappointment. The first term began July 1, 2025.
 - Rosalia Mangione
 - Marsha Bird

Responsibilities of the Co-Chairs

- Manage the eligibility review and selection process
- Oversee fundraising initiatives
- Communicate with applicants and recipients
- Prepare reports for the Board
- Uphold the values of the grant and ensure alignment with the mission

3. How the Program is Funded

The Grant Program is funded exclusively through charitable donations and community-driven fundraising efforts, including:

Charitable Donations

- Donations can be made directly to the West Point Jr. Black Knights Youth Ice Hockey Association, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. These can be made via check or registration on the Ryan Barnard Grant Program subpage of the West Point Jr. Black Knights website
- All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.
- Donations may be made in honor or memory of individuals and recognized accordingly.
- Donors may make one-time payments or request recurring submissions.

Fundraising Initiatives

- Semi-Annual Golf Outing – A signature event that draws sponsors, alumni, and families together in support of the grant and the organization.
- Apparel Sales – Featuring limited-edition gear inspired by Ryan's legacy and military service.



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- Silent Auctions, Raffles, and Community Nights – Hosted throughout the season at tournaments and league events.
- Online Campaigns – Promoted via social media and email to reach a broader donor base.

Proceeds from all of these efforts, and more, are managed within the West Point Jr. Black Knight Youth Ice Hockey Association and are reported on by the organization's Treasurer.

4. Criteria for Eligible Recipients

Recipients must be under the age of 25 and must either be active or past members of the West Point Jr. Black Knights Youth Ice Hockey Association, or active or past members of the United States Military, and must, after demonstrating financial need, meet at least one of the following criteria which reflect the character and core values of the program's namesake:

- A. Demonstrates Personal Integrity - Upholds honesty, transparency, and strong moral principles.
- B. Acts Selflessly in Service to Others - Shows consistent willingness to help teammates, classmates, or community members in need, without expectation of reward.
- C. Displays Resilience - Confronts challenges, whether personal, academic, athletic or familial, with strength and determination, while inspiring and uplifting others along the way.
- D. Advocates for the Underserved or Less Fortunate - Actively promotes inclusion, fairness, and justice, consistently standing up for others, especially at their most vulnerable moments.

5. Nomination Process

While nominations will be accepted at any time, they must be received by May 1 in each given year to be considered for approval. Nominations received after that date will be considered in the following year. Nominations can be made in one of two ways:

- Written statements, either via email or letter mailed to the organization's address.
- Completion of the Nomination Form located on the Ryan Barnard Grant Program subpage of the West Point Jr. Black Knights website

Recipients will be selected by the Co-Chairs and approved by the Board to maintain fairness and impartiality.



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6. Closing Note

The Ryan Barnard Grant Program is more than financial support. It is a living legacy, ensuring that Ryan's values and spirit continue to impact young athletes, servicemembers, and their families in meaningful ways. By helping to relieve burdens and recognizing character, we aim to keep Ryan's memory alive in every stride, shot, and story shared on and off the ice or battlefield.